

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06384 132152Z

67-R
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 129723
P 132130Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 951

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 6384

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJECT: REACTION TO BICENTENNIAL

REF: STATE 169682

1. BICENTENNIAL HERE WAS CELEBRATED UNDER SHADOW OF CURFEW AND "NATIONAL EMERGENCY". DESPITE LOCAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS, GOP AUTHORIZED CONTINUATION OF MANY BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES. GOP PROHIBITED MASS MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE AT SPORTS EVENTS. NEVERTHELESS, LOCAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES PERMITTED AMERICAN SOCIETY TO HOLD ITS PICNIC HONORING BICENTENNIAL. PICNIC WAS WELL ATTENDED BY BOTH PERUVIANS AND AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

2. AMBASSADOR DEAN'S JULY 4 RECEPTION WAS SUCCESS JUDGING BY ATTENDANCE AND ATMOSPHERE. FOREIGN GUESTS OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED THEMSELVES ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LITTLE TO BE JOYOUS ABOUT CONSIDERING LOCAL SITUATION. THEY SMILED AND LAUGHED AS THOUGH NOTHING WAS WRONG. APPLAUSE WAS LOUD AND GENEROUS FOR AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON TRADITIONAL TIES BETWEEN U.S. AND PERU, AND TROOPING OF COLORS BY MARINE COLOR GUARD DRESSED IN PERIOD UNIFORMS. LARGE PORTION OF INVITEES WATCHED ATTENTIVELY USIS TV PROGRAM "SATELLITE SALUTE". GUESTS COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S COMMAND OF SPANISH. MANY PERUVIANS TOLD EMBASSY STAFFERS THAT IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR THE U.S. AND THAT THEY WERE DELIGHTED TO BE PRESENT AS U.S. CELEBRATED 200 YEARS AS DEMOCRACY.

3. MOST LOCAL DAILIES CARRIED BICENTENNIAL SUPPLEMENTS, MOST NOTABLE LA PRENSA WHICH DEVOTED 65 PAGES TO HONORING U.S.
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GOVERNMENT'S CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION (OCI) ATTEMPTED TO HOLD

UP PUBLICATION OF LA PRENSA SUPPLEMENT SUPPLEMENT, BUT LUIS
JAIME CISNEROS, THE PAPER'S DIRECTOR AND BROTHER OF INTERIOR MINISTER

,
TOLD OCI THAT THE MATTERIAL CONTAINED IN THE SPECIAL EDITION WAS
NON-POLITICAL AND IN KEEPING WITH SPIRIT OF HONORING U.S.
OCI QUICKLY RELENTED. AS FOR OTHER MEDIA, A NUMBER OF LIMA RADIO
STATIONS CARRIED SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND NUMEROUS NEWS ITEMS ON THE
CELEBRATION. AND, GOVERNMENT TV CHANNELS IN THE CAPITAL
BROADCAST NATIONWIDE THROUGH THEIR INTERIOR AFFILIATES 5 HOURS
OF SPECIAL PROGRAMMING IN PRIME TIME SLOTS ON THE U.S. AND THE
BICENTENNIAL.
DEAN

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